

William Depoy Letter

S354

1862

1folder

Manuscripts & Rare Books Division
Indiana State Library

Finding Aid by: Nikki Stoddard Schofield, February 2014

Biographical Note:

William H. Depoy was born November 13, 1840 to Nicholas (1799-1865) and Henrietta (1810-1886) Depoy. He died at Fort Washington, Maryland, on February 6, 1864, and is buried in Concord Cemetery, Whitley County, Indiana. The inscription on his tombstone has 156th Indiana Battalion, although this letter has 46th Indiana Regiment.

The Forty-Sixth Regiment was organized at Logansport on October 4th, 1861. At the time of this letter, dated March 14, 1862, the 46th was part of General Pope's army.

Source:

Information Found within Collection and from Ancestry.com accessed on 2/13/2014.

Scope and Content:

The four-page letter, which is photocopied on three pages, is addressed to William's brother and sister. After telling his siblings that he is well, he wrote: "You wrote that you heard that we had gone to Mumfordsville. We did not go there. We were ordered to Fort Donalson from Camp Wickcliffe but before we got there, the battle was over and then we were ordered to Missouri and we are now at New Madrid on the Mississippi River. We made an attack on New Madrid yesterday and the artillery played on the Rebels most vigoursly until night when we went back to camp and we were called out at 3 o'clock this morning in the rain and we waded [in] mud half a boot top deep and we got about half way to town when we got the news that they had all left, so we went back well satisfied. Some of our officers went down to the town and they left all their things – all their cannon and camp equipage, knapsacks, canteens and eating utensils and found two men asleep in a tent and some thot stayed to bury their dead and they took them prisoners and took all their things. We have got seven hundred men there now planting our cannon on their breast work."

He wrote: "I have got nearly use to hearing cannon. We were firing on them with our cannon off and on for 5 days and sometimes the Rebels' shells would come so close that they would throw dirt all over us. That will try a fellow's grit but the old 46th Regiment took it quite cool."

William ended his letter by writing: "If there are any more particulars of the war, I will give it in my next letter. So no more but still remain your brother until death. Direct your letters to Cairo 46 Regiment, William Depoy, J. H. Depoy."

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Collection Inventory Folder Listing:

Letter by William Depoy to his brother and sister, March 14, 1862.

Collection Information:

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Collection Dates:	1862
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